

**From:** Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2024 9:47 AM  
**To:** 'David.Reilly@albanycountyny.gov'  
**Subject:** **The Albany County D.A. -- salary, other benefits, state reimbursement -- & the salaries of other Albany County officers**

Dear [Albany County Management and Budget Commissioner M. David Reilly](#),

This follows my voice mail message for you yesterday afternoon (518-447-5525) concerning the Albany County district attorney salary – and the call back from your confidential assistant Amanda, who asked that I put my questions in writing and that you would get back to me with the answers. Preliminarily, these are my questions:

- (1) The [adopted 2024 Albany County budget \(at p. 158\)](#) lists the D.A. salary as \$202,800. However, inasmuch as [Albany County has a population of over 100,000, but less than 500,000, Judiciary Law §183-a](#) requires that the Albany County D.A. salary be at least “equivalent” to that of an Albany County Court judge – which the [December 4, 2023 Report of the \(3<sup>rd</sup>\) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#) hiked to \$223,700, effective April 1, 2024 ([see OCA bulletin](#)). *Is this now D.A. Soares’ current salary? – and did D.A. Soares alert the County to this increase and, if so, when?*
- (2) Am I correct that from January 1, 1999 to March 31, 2012, the Albany County D.A. salary was \$131,400? – this having been the salary of an Albany County Court judge pursuant to [Judiciary Law §221-D](#).
- (3) Am I correct that this \$131,400 D.A. salary was hiked, as follows, as a result of the [August 29, 2011 Report of the Commission on Judicial Compensation](#):
  - effective April 1, 2012, to \$153,800
  - effective April 1, 2023, to \$160,600
  - effective April 1, 2014, to \$167,300.
- (4) Am I correct that \$167,300 remained the D.A. salary from April 1, 2014 until, as a result of the [December 24, 2015 Report of the \(1<sup>st</sup>\) Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation](#), it was hiked, as follows:
  - effective April 1, 2016, to \$185,600
  - effective April 1, 2017, to \$187,400
  - effective April 1, 2018, to \$200,000
  - effective April 1, 2019, to \$202,800.
- (5) Am I correct that \$202,800 remained the D.A. salary from April 1, 2019 until April 1, 2024?
- (6) Am I correct that in addition to salary, the D.A. gets other benefits– some of which are salary-based. What are they? – and can you estimate their cost to Albany County for each year, beginning with the April 1, 2012 increase?

- (7) Am I correct that \$78,514 is the amount of state aid that Albany County has received each year since 2014 as “state reimbursement” for the state-imposed Albany County D.A. salary, unchanged despite the increased costs to Albany County of the hiked D.A. salaries that have resulted from the [Judiciary Law §183-a](#) link. What has been the cost to Albany County of the state’s failure, since 2014, to increase “state reimbursement” commensurate with the state-mandated increases in D.A. salary? Also, for comparison, how much state aid did Albany County receive each year from 1999 to 2011, when the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary was \$131,400? – and how much in 2012 and 2013 when the state-mandated D.A. salary rose to \$153,800 and \$160,600, respectively?
- (8) Am I correct that the state-mandated Albany County D.A. salary is the highest salary of any Albany County officer paid from the Albany County budget? Do the salary figures of the [adopted 2024 Albany County budget](#), listing the County Executive’s salary as \$181,406, the County Comptroller’s salary as \$149,439, the County Attorney’s salary as \$141,831, the County Clerk’s salary as \$138,088, and the salary of the County Legislature’s Chair as \$47,836, best illustrate this – or are prior adopted Albany County budgets better reflective of the disparity and, if so, which?

I thank you, in advance, for your answers – and look forward to speaking with you directly.

Elena Sassower, Director  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)  
914-421-1200  
[elena@judgewatch.org](mailto:elena@judgewatch.org)